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QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE
MIDDLE EAST
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI
OCCUPATION OF AND
AGGRESSION AGAINST
KUWAIT
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 23 June 1992 from the Permanent Representatives of Kuwait and Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The undersigned have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in Arabic and English, of a joint statement of the European Community and its member States and the Gulf Cooperation Council on Kuwait, issued at Kuwait City on 16 May 1992 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly under items 33, 35, 46 and 77 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative
of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

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Annex

COMMUNIQUE OF THE JOINT COUNCIL OF THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

[Original: Arabic and English]

1. The third session of the Joint Council, created under the cooperation agreement between the European Community and its member States and the States members of the Charter of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) (the United Arab Emirates; the State of Bahrain; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the Sultanate of Oman; the State of Qatar; and the State of Kuwait) took place in Kuwait on 16 May 1992.

2. The two parties discussed regional and international issues of common interest in an open and constructive spirit, with a view to strengthening cooperation between the two regions.

3. The European Community and its member States and GCC and its member States welcomed the return of peace and stability to the Gulf in accordance with international law. Both sides followed with interest the efforts undertaken last year by the States in the region within the framework of GCC, with a view to strengthening the restoration of peace and stability. They have reaffirmed their commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of all States in the region.

4. The Ministers had the honour of being received by His Highness Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah. They expressed satisfaction over the fact that they were meeting in liberated Kuwait and congratulated the people and the Government of Kuwait for having regained their freedom, sovereignty and independence under their legitimate Government. They reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to a speedy and comprehensive implementation of the Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait and called on Iraq fully to implement those resolutions, without any delay. The Ministers stressed the importance they attach to the immediate release of the remaining prisoners-of-war and detainees in Iraq, as well as the importance of ensuring that the Iraqi Government commit itself to fully compensating the losses and damage caused by its aggression against the State of Kuwait. They also welcomed the continued efforts of the United Nations Security Council to ensure the implementation of the relevant international resolutions. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the United Nations Commission in charge of the questions dealing with the demarcation of the international boundary between the two countries. The Ministers expressed concern over the suffering that continues to be inflicted on the population of Iraq as a whole and the fact that the Iraqi Government refuses to comply with the pertinent Security Council resolutions, namely resolutions 688 (1991), 706 (1991) and 712 (1991), which specifically provide for the means to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people.

5. The Joint Council reviewed developments in commercial and economic cooperation between the two sides. The European Community Ministers congratulated the GCC countries for their impressive economic performance, which has enabled them to face the economic implications of the Gulf crisis and restore healthy and normal economies.

The substantial increase in two-way trade in 1991 confirms the continued importance of the economic relationship between the two regions.

The Joint Council noted with satisfaction that the Joint Cooperation Committee, established in accordance with article 15 of the Cooperation Agreement, has been activated with a view to fulfilling the tasks assigned to it in order to meet the Agreement's objectives. The Joint Council received a report from the Joint Cooperation Committee and approved the recommendations incorporated therein, which are aimed at reinforcing cooperation between the two regions. The Joint Council reiterated the importance of cooperation in the field of energy and stressed the usefulness of continued discussions on the world energy market and other issues of mutual interest.

The two sides agreed on the importance of continuing their cooperation in the field of environment and extending cooperation to include strengthening national and local environmental institutions in the Gulf countries, teams of experts and environmental standards. They stressed the importance of the realization of cooperation potential in the field of industrial cooperation, investment, joint ventures, science and technology, standards and human resources development. The Joint Council welcomed the decision to hold the second European Community-GCC Industrial Cooperation Conference at Doha on 25-27 October 1992 and underlined the important contribution of the Conference to the development of trade and economic and investment relations between the two regions.

6. The Joint Council had a detailed discussion of the problems related to climate changes including Co_2 emissions.

The GCC side expressed its concern about the intention of the European Community to envisage an energy/carbon tax and the consequences of such a tax on the world economy and the economies of developing countries. The GCC side questioned the effectiveness of the proposed tax in controlling emissions and pointed out that oil is already overtaxed in the European Community. Further taxation would adversely affect the GCC economies and their upstream and downstream expansion programme, which might affect mutual European Community-GCC trade relations.

The Commission explained that any tax would be part of a global strategy to stabilize emissions of Co_2 and it was important that economic development should be sustainable environmentally. The Commission stressed that its strategy would promote an appropriate and equitable solution at the international level and that a combined carbon/energy tax would not have a discriminatory impact on the competitive position of oil.

Reiterating their mutual commitment to promote a global and timely response to the problems associated with the environment, the two sides agreed to continue their dialogue on these issues, taking also into account international efforts to find appropriate and effective global solutions.

7. The Joint Council took note of the progress of the ongoing trade negotiations between the two regions. Both sides reitereated their commitment to exert maxium efforts to conclude these negotiations successfully as soon as possible.

8. The Ministers of the European Community and GCC had a full exchange of views on developments in their two regions. The Ministers of GCC apprised the European Community Ministers of the economic developments within the process of cooperation and integration of the GCC and GCC relations with the neighbouring countries, the economic programme of the Declaration of Damascus and the development of GCC relations with other regional groupings. The Ministers of the European Community described the successful conclusion of the Maastricht negotiations on economic and monetary union, and political union, including a common foreign and security policy. This achievement, together with the completion of the European Single Market, would mark the beginning of a new era in European integration. The Ministers of the European Community also referred to the perspectives of future enlargement of the European Community, the signature of an Agreement of a European Economic Area and on the development of relations with the countries of East and Central Europe the former Soviet Union. The importance of the European Community's relations with the neighbouring countries of the southern Mediterranean region and its involvement in the Middle East peace process were also emphasized.

9. The Ministers discussed the prospects for international cooperation in support of sustainable development of the Arab World. They reiterated their commitment to continue their cooperation with these countries in a spirit of solidarity. They exchanged information on the major efforts required in the region, their respective endeavours to meet them and the prospects for joint cooperation.

10. The Ministers firmly believe that the implementation of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict is vital for the stability and security of Europe and the Middle East. It is in this spirit that they reviewed the developments in the Middle East. They reaffirmed the commitment made by their Governments to support and strengthen the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and their upholding of the self-determination of the Palestinian people.

11. The two parties followed closely the evolution in the Middle East peace process, at both the bilateral and the multilateral levels. The European Community and its members States and GCC and its member States will not spare any efforts to play a constructive and active role in multilateral talks, which may lead to a strengthening of bilateral contacts. The multilateral

phase of the Middle East peace process constitutes a concrete measure for confidence-building, allowing peace to become a reality and promote the development of true regional cooperation. However, the multilateral talks complement the bilateral talks and could not replace them. Progress in issues central to the bilateral talks will contribute greatly to the success of the multilateral talks.

12. The European Community and its member States and GCC and its member States call on all parties to adhere to the peace process and to refrain from any action likely to jeopardize the negotiations or threaten the re-establishment of a climate of confidence. The continued Israeli policy of settlement in the occupied territories is an obstacle to peace. Both sides stress the need for significant measures for confidence-building. In the opinion of the European Community, one such measure consists in Israel freezing its policy of settlement in the occupied territories, which is illegal under international law. The lifting of the trade boycott of Israel by Arab countries would be another measure. The Ministers condemned all acts of violence, regardless of their source.

13. The Ministers remain deeply concerned at the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories, namely with regard to human rights. They have reaffirmed that Israel, as the occupying Power, should abide by the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Both sides also stress the urgent need for the international community to provide assistance to mitigate the situation in the occupied territories.

14. Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the two parties reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the Taif accords in all their aspects and perspectives and stressed the need for all parties to make efforts towards the full restoration of sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity to Lebanon. They also reaffirmed their support for the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to participate in the reconstruction of Lebanon, and stressed the willingness of GCC to participate in a donor conference with the objective of raising aid funds for Lebanon.

15. The Ministers praised the good offices mission of the Committee of Seven, created by the League of Arab States to seek the cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to lead it to comply with Security Council resolution 731 (1992). The Ministers confirmed that their Governments intend to implement the pertinent resolutions adopted by the Security Council, as a testimony of the respect of their countries for international law and their support for the measures aimed at countering terrorism.

16. The European Community and its member States and GCC and its member States expressed their interest in the stability of and continued development in the Maghreb region and expressed their belief that this will strengthen cooperation.

17. The European Community and its member States and GCC and its member States expressed satisfaction over the resuming of the European-Arab dialogue, which had been suspended for some time. They have followed with interest the meeting recently held in Lisbon and have committed themselves to strengthening the relations between the Arab States and the European Community.

18. The European Community and its member States and GCC and its member States expressed concern about the complexity of the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States and stressed the uncertainties which this situation presents for the stability of the region. The Ministers exchanged information on the contributions that their respective countries have made in the field of humanitarian aid and development and technical assistance and they stated that the European Community intends to support the dialogue between the republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the international community to ensure compliance with the commitments made by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

19. The Ministers discussed the situation prevailing in the former Yugoslav republics. The Ministers of GCC appreciated the efforts undertaken by the United Nations and the European Community to find a solution to the Yugoslav crisis. Both sides have expressed their deep concern in view of the alarming situation in certain parts of the republics of former Yugoslavia and in particular in the face of the rapid and violent deterioration of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ministers on both sides called for the immediate cessation of all forms of interference, including interference by units of the Yugoslav People's Army, as well as by elements of the Croatian army.

20. The Ministers of the European Community and GCC called on the parties to the conflict to respond positively and seriously to the mediation of the European Community and to respect fully the cease-fire in order to reach a peaceful settlement to the conflict. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the people and Government of Kuwait for their warm welcome and hospitality and the excellent organization of their meeting.

21. Both sides have agreed that the fourth session of the Joint Council will take place in the European Community during the first semester of 1993.